

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANAGU 03693 241515Z

53

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 DLOS-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 /071 W  
----- 100982

P R 241400Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8034

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MANAGUA 3693

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, PFOR, CO, NU

SUBJECT: REACTION TO ROGERS' STATEMENT ON QUITA SUENO

SUMMARY: ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS'S REMARKS ON QUITA SUENO  
CONTROVERSY WERE MISINTERPRETED BY WIRE SERVICE AND RAISED SOME  
NATIONALIST HACKLES. EMBASSY'S ABILITY TO GET CORRECT TEXT TO  
MEDIA AND FOREIGN MINISTRY HELPED TO LIMIT NEGATIVE REACTION.  
END SUMMARY

1. OPPOSITION LA PRENSA'S SEPTEMBER 18 EDITION GAVE MAJOR  
ATTENTION TO ASST SECRETARY ROGERS' REMARKS ON QUITA SUENO  
ISSUE AS REPORTED BY EFA. SIX COLUMN HEADLINE PROCLAIMED "U.S.  
INSISTS ON GIVING KEYS TO COLOMBIA". WASHINGTON DATED LINE STORY  
REPORTED THAT U.S. WAS RECOGNIZING COLOMBIAN SOVEREIGNTY OVER  
QUITA SUENO, RONCADOR AND SERRANA. LA PRENSA ADDED ITS OWN  
POSTSCRIPT WHICH STATED "IT SHOULD BE REMEMBERED THAT NICARAGUA  
HAS RIGHTS TO THE CITED ISLETS AND HAS NEVER RENOUNCED THEM.  
THEREFORE, THE PRESSURE THAT MR. ROGERS MAKES TO THE U.S.  
CONGRESS ARE DAMAGING TO NICARAGUA. THE US CANNOT ON  
ITS OWN DEFINE THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE KEYS WHICH LIE ON THE  
NICARAGUAN CONTINENTAL SHELF."

2. EMBASSY HASTILY PREPARED A PRESS RELEASE CONTAINING A  
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PAGE 02 MANAGU 03693 241515Z

TRANSLATION OF PARAGRAPH CORRESPONDING TO NICARAGUAN RIGHTS

IN ROGERS' DECLARATION AS CONVEYED ON USIS WIRELESS FILE.  
IT APPEARED VERY PROMINENTLY ON FIRST PAGE OF SEPTEMBER 10  
NOVEDADES BEARING HEADLINE "IT WILL NOT BE U.S. WHO WILL DECIDE  
ON KEYS". LA PRENSA RECEIVED THE PRESS RELEASE TOO LATE FOR ITS  
SEPTEMBER 19 ISSUE, BUT PRINTED IT ON FRONT PAGE OF ITS SEPTEMBER  
20 EDITION WITH HEAD "AMERICAN EMBASSY MAKES CLARIFICATION ON KEYS".

3. VICE FOREIGN MINISTER BODAN WHO ATTENDED CHILEAN NATIONAL DAY  
RECEPTION ON SEPTEMBER 18 WAS GIVEN A PREVIEW OF PRESS RELEASE  
BY AMBASSADOR AND THOUGH APPARENTLY RELIEVED TO FIND THAT THE EFE  
INTERPRETATION WAS DISTORTED, ASKED FOR A COMPLETE TEXT OF THE ROGERS  
,

STATEMENT WHICH WAS PROVIDED THE NEXT DAY. THE FOREIGN  
MINISTRY SUBSEQUENTLY ISSUED ITS OWN DECLARATION ON SEPTEMBER 19,  
REAFFIRMING ITS CLAIM TO THE ROCKS AND CITY THE ROGERS' STATEMENT  
AS EVIDENCE THAT NOTHING HAS BEEN DONE TO ATTENUATE NICARAGUA'S  
CLAIM DURING THE LATEST U.S.- COLOMBIA BILATERAL MOVES.

4. COMMENT: AS ONE OF THE FEW GENUINE NATIONALISTIC ISSUES  
EXISTING IN NICARAGUA, THE QUITA SUENO PROBLEM, WHICH CAUSED  
THE DOWNFALL OF ONE FOREIGN MINISTER IN 1972, CREATES MARBS IN  
OUR RELATIONSHIP EVERYTIME IT POPS UP. WHILE OURMAKESHIFT RESPONSE  
TO THE EFE STORY IN THE ABSENCE OF PRIOR NOTIFICATION OR INSTRUCTION  
FROM THE DEPARTMENT SEEMS TO HAVE SUCCEEDED IN MINIMIZING THE  
NEGATIVE FALLOUT THS TIME (ASSISTED GREATLY BY THE AMBASSADOR'S  
HONEYMOON PERIOD WITH THE MEDIA), WE HOPE TO BE BRIEFED IN ADVANCE  
OF ANY SUBSEQUENT STATEMENTS OR DEVELOPMENTS ON THIS ISSUE.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TERRITORIAL REVERSION, PRESS COMMENTS, ISLAND CLAIMS, QUITA SUENO, SPEECHES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 SEP 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975MANAGU03693  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750331-0121  
**From:** MANAGUA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Office:** ACTION ARA  
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**Review Comment:** n/a  
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**Review Date:** 08 SEP 2003  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
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**TAGS:** PBOR, PFOR, CO, NU, US, (ROGERS, WILLIAM D)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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